

## FAULT TOLERANT SERVER FOR COLLABORATIVE COMPUTING

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5       A distributed collaborative computer system is  
provided that comprises a plurality of server computers  
interconnected via a high-speed link. Client computers  
can connect to any available server computer and start  
or join a conference hosted on either the server  
10 computer to which the client computer is connected or  
any other server in the system. As a result, the  
system and method of the present invention is easily  
scalable to support an arbitrary number of participants  
to a conference by merely adding the appropriate number  
15 of server computers to the system. In addition, by  
replicating the conference information on more than one  
server computer, the single point of failure limitation  
is eliminated. In fact, if a server hosting or  
participating in a conference malfunctions, the failure  
20 is detected by other server computers and the client  
computer is able to reconnect to the conference through  
a new server computer.